



INL's J.W. "Bill" Rogers (left) and Frank Priestley, president of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, signed a collaborative agreement on energy crop research at IFBF headquarters in Pocatello Tuesday.

INL and Idaho Farm Bureau Federation sign agreement on energy crop research

by Keith Arterburn, *INL Communications*

POCATELLO — On Sept. 16, representatives of Idaho National Laboratory and the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation signed a memorandum of understanding establishing cooperation and coordination on advanced energy technologies needed by the state's agriculture industry.

The signing took place at the IFBF headquarters in Pocatello and was repeated in Nampa at an E-85 gas station to emphasize that the agreement covered the entire state of Idaho.

INL Associate Laboratory Director for Energy and Environment J.W. "Bill" Rogers Jr. said, "INL has been designated as the lead laboratory in designing the feedstock road map for biomass energy research in agriculture, forestry and dedicated energy crop materials. INL is dedicated to advancing Idaho's agricultural industry and renewable energy production capabilities for the nation."

"Although Idaho was not blessed with abundant fossil energy such as oil, coal or natural gas, we still have the potential to become a major producer of energy," said Frank Priestley, president of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation. "As technologies continue to develop, farmers and researchers are beginning to work together to prove that dedicated energy crops, waste materials and forestry residues can be an important addition to the Idaho economy and environment."

The agreement for five years includes testing of varied grasses such as switch, prairie, sudan, the native Idaho basin wild rye and miscanthus as dedicated energy crops. It also includes the harvesting, collection and preparation of cellulosic and other feedstocks for biofuels processing and conversion into fuels, chemicals and energy. The MOU includes field experiments lasting two or three years for proper data collection in test plots.

Idaho National Laboratory is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE — energy, national security, science and environment. More specifically, INL is the nation's leading center of nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) is the largest general farm organization in Idaho with over 63,000 member families and is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, representing over five million member families nationwide. IFBF was organized to protect and support the interests of agriculture and is the parent company of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho.

[Read the INL news release.](#)

[Visit the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's website.](#)

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J.W. "Bill" Rogers, INL Associate Laboratory Director for Energy and Environment (right) and Frank Priestley, president of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding on energy crop research in Nampa Tuesday.